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APPLICANT(S): PARAMESH, Jeyanandh et al.
SERIAL NO.: 10/608,544
FILED: June 30, 2003
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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-3, 11-13, 17, 18, 20 and 21 are pending in the application. Claims 10 and 16 have been objected to. Claims 1-3, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 20 have been amended.

Claims 4-10, 14-16, 19 and 22-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In making this cancellation without prejudice, Applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 10 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Each of independent base claims 1, 11 and 17 has been amended to include the allowed subject matter of claim 10 or 16 and the limitation of intervening claim 9 or 15, respectively. Applicants respectfully assert that this amendment does not narrow the scope of claims 1, 11 and 17.

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CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 11, 17, 18 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Martin et al. (US Publication 2001/0009861).

Applicants respectfully assert that amended independent claims 1, 11 and 17 are allowable because they include the above identified allowable subject matter.

Claim 18 is dependent from allowable independent base claim 17, and thus allowable at least by virtue of such dependency.

Claim 22 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 11, 17 and 18.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Martin et al. (US Publication 2001/0009861) in view of Kinoshita et al. (US Patent 6,430,215), claims 3 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Martin et al. (US Publication 2001/0009861) in view of Kinoshita et al. (US Patent 6,430,215) and further in view of DeWulf (US Patent 6,590,528), claims 9, 15 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Martin et al. (US Publication 2001/0009861) in view of DeWulf (US Patent 6,590,528), claims 20 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Martin et al. (US Publication 2001/0009861) in view of Callaway, Jr. et al. (US Publication 2002/0186750) and claims 21 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Martin et al. (US Publication 2001/0009861) in view of Callaway, Jr. et al. (US Publication 2002/0186750) and further in view of Eriksson et al. (US Publication 2003/0083031).

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Claims 2-3 depend from allowable independent base claim 1, claims 12-13 depend from allowable independent base claim 11 and claims 18 and 20 depend from allowable independent base claim 17. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-3, 12-13, 18 and 20 are patentable over the cited reference(s) by virtue of at least such dependency on patentable base claims 1, 11 and 17. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of claims 2-3, 12-13, 18 and 20 be withdrawn.

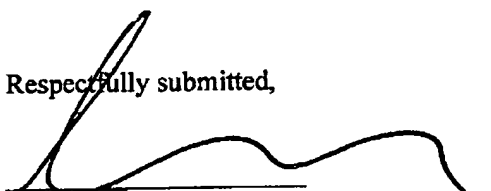
Claims 19 and 22-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,



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